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Java Talk
(for October 4, 2007 to October 10, 2007)

Every Age Is The Best Age

The Bear Necessities

Debby, the world's oldest polar bear, according to the Guinness World Records, has lived 40 years—"double the life expectancy of most polar bears that live in the wild." These days, wild polar bears are struggling to live in their old homes. Debby, however, who was born in Russia, has lived almost all of her life at Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Zoo.

Looking ahead at our own long lives and the changing years ahead, where do we want to live happily ever after? Just the idea of moving ever again, seems unbearable, to me. Fortunately, I am a native Victorian, and thirty years ago I settled into my idea of a perfect home, which I hope will still suit me, at any age.

Meanwhile, in time for International Day of Older Persons, on October 1st, the World Health Organization (WHO) released "the first guide on building age-friendly cities... based on consultations with older people in 33 cities in 22 countries..." (See www.who.int/en/).

This reminds me of the original 1848 version of *The Story of the Three Bears*, by Robert Southey, which was actually about an un-named old woman checking out the bears' place, which wasn't all that great, so she took off:

"Out the little old Woman jumped; and whether she broke her neck in the fall; or ran into the wood and was lost there; or found her way out of the wood, and was taken up by the constable and sent to the House of Correction for a vagrant as she was, I cannot tell. But the Three Bears never saw anything more of her."

Actually, the old woman changed her identity. Her name was Silver-hair, for a while, but as time passed, she grew younger and eventually became known as Goldilocks, whom I imagine is probably living in some age-friendly city, perhaps similar to Victoria.

Deidre Hill